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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,822	10/24/2005	Mark Brister	PA1187	3938

28390 7590 02/01/2011

MEDTRONIC VASCULAR, INC.
IP LEGAL DEPARTMENT
3576 UNOCAL PLACE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

EXAMINER	
HOUSTON, ELIZABETH	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3731	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
02/01/2011	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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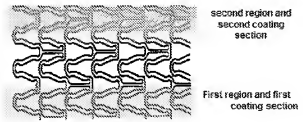
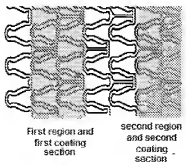
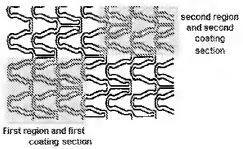
rs.vasciplegal@medtronic.com

Response to Arguments

Applicant states that Castro fails to disclose a patterned coating extending over the regions as claimed. Applicant further states that the Castro patent fails to disclose discrete coating sections over the regions. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Shown below are a few possible scenarios that depict a first region across adjacent cylindrical stent segments, a first coating completely covering the outer surface in the first region, a second region across adjacent cylindrical stent segments, a second coating completely covering the outer surface in the first region such that the first and second coating sections are discrete. What Castro fails to disclose is that the first coating section is a single layer directly adjacent to the outer surface and the second coating section is a single layer directly adjacent to the outer surface. Ragheb explicitly states, "Different bioactive agents may be applied to different sections of surfaces of the device." (C29:L19-21). Ragheb goes on to state, "... or the bioactive material may be applied in parallel lines, particularly where two or more bioactive materials are applied to the same surface." (C20:L1-3). The fact that Ragheb intended to apply different active agents to the different sections of the stent indicates that each agent is applied to the surface in discrete locations rather than in layers in the same location (as disclosed by Castro). Thus Ragheb provides the missing limitation.







Applicant summarizes that which is disclosed by Castro and that which is disclosed by Ragheb and merely states that the combination of the two does not suggest the applicant's invention. Applicant's arguments do not provide valid reasons as to why the combination is improper. As such the rejection is maintained.

/Elizabeth Houston/
Examiner, Art Unit 3731